

know the importance of finding a way to limit the influence of money in politics, and she has not been reluctant to advance a thoughtful position on that. And she has been a leader on making historic progress in South Africa. She has been the Senate's voice on Africa, and we appreciate that. Furthermore, she has been deeply involved in the issue of health research, particularly on Orphan Drugs. Basic health research is America's particular pride and strength, and she made sure that those with rare diseases are included in our hopeful enterprise. That is a contribution that will change the lives of families through the generations, who otherwise would have suffered without any hope whatsoever. Mr. President, these are all issues that are fundamentally important and nonpartisan. They reflect her judgment and her leadership, and we are privileged to have worked with her on them.

Finally, Mr. President, I must brag on my home city of Charleston. Senator KASSEBAUM has recognized its beauty through her frequent visits, and, coincidentally, it is home to her son, his wife, and their children. I hope we will see more of her there after this Congress is over, but, certainly, she has been a real leader that we will miss in this Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JIM EXON

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to wish my friend, JIM EXON, an enjoyable retirement from this body. It's been a pleasure to serve him for the past 13 years, especially on the Budget Committee; together, we've fought for issues which were important to the average American. When I think of JIM's many accomplishments, I will especially remember his commitment to the Medicare program and his opposition to cutting Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

For the past 2 years, JIM has served as ranking minority member of the Budget Committee. It's been a tumultuous time. But as a businessman who founded a successful company, he brought to the Senate significant business skills and a commitment to fiscal responsibility. That was also evident in JIM's work on the Armed Services Committee, where he was a persistent and effective voice to reduce waste in the Defense Department.

Recognized in the Senate as an authority on agriculture, rural America, commerce, national defense and transportation, JIM was, above all, a voice for Nebraska's interests. Whether fighting for fair international trade agreements for mid-west agriculture, or cosponsoring legislation that made Medicare reimburse rural and urban hospitals at the same rate, or having Nebraska's Niobrara River declared a National Scenic River, JIM always championed the State he had served as Governor.

It's no wonder that the book "Politics in America" notes that JIM EXON,

"makes a real contribution to the Senate as a mirror of public opinion in America's heartland. It is hard to think of anyone else in the chamber who so seems attuned to the questions and concerns of the typical middle-American."

JIM, your presence in the Senate will be sorely missed. Others may fill your seat, but few will be able to fill your shoes. As you begin the next stage of your career and your life, I wish you all the best.

THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENTIAL EXPORT TAX SYSTEMS ON U.S. OILSEED PROCESSORS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, last month, as we were voting on an extension of the Generalized System of Preferences, I spoke on the floor about a tax system employed by certain countries, including Brazil and Argentina, that operates to confer an unfair competitive advantage on exports of oilseed products from those countries at the expense of United States producers of these products. These unfair tax schemes, commonly known as differential export tax systems, or DETs, have been of great concern to all soybean growing states, including my State of Illinois, one of the leading soybean States in our country.

As I explained last month, these tax schemes, which operate in much the same way as WTO-impermissible export subsidies, make a mockery of the principles of free and fair trade. Until these unfair tax schemes are eliminated in countries throughout the world, U.S. processors will continue to lose ground in world markets for soybean meal and oil.

I was therefore pleased to learn that the Government of Brazil recently passed a law that eliminates these tax schemes in the states that employ them. I want to take this opportunity to commend the Government of Brazil for this major achievement. By this action, the Brazilian Federal Government has greatly contributed to the further liberalization of world trade. I am hopeful that other countries that continue to rely upon these trade-distorting tax schemes will be encouraged to follow the lead of Brazil and take similar steps toward trade liberalization. I will continue to monitor this issue closely, and if we do not see further progress in this regard, the Senate Finance Committee should consider examining this issue in more detail as part of its trade agenda in the next Congress.

LORD & COMPANY, INC.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am proud today to praise an outstanding Virginian and his Virginia company. Juan G. "Bill" Cabrera is President of Lord & Company, Inc., in Manassas, VA, and last week Mr. Cabrera was named the Minority Small Business Person of the Year for his region of the country.

Government contracts are crucial to our country in so many ways. First, they are an essential part of Virginia's economy, especially in the Northern Virginia area. Second, through minority contracting programs, our government provides invaluable opportunities to minority-owned businesses to get a necessary foothold in the marketplace. Third, our taxpayers deserve and demand that they receive the maximum value for their money.

Mr. Cabrera and his company are a perfect example of this important combination. He moved the fledgling company from Alabama to Virginia in 1984 where it began to acquire more contracts in the fields of instrumentation, controls, and monitoring systems. In 1991, the Small Business Administration certified the firm for the section 8(a) program, and Lord & Company took off.

The company has received numerous quality awards from the Departments of the Navy and Army, Fairfax County Public Schools, and numerous private companies. Moreover, Mr. Cabrera has made special efforts to diversify his workplace by hiring single parents, minorities, and others in need of employment. The company has also started its own contracting program by adopting a small minority-owned business and assisting it with technical and managerial support.

Mr. Cabrera has been recognized for his talents before, having served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business and attending the Amos Tuck School of Minority Business Executive Program at Dartmouth College.

In sum, Mr. Cabrera has shown remarkable energy in providing solid work product to the taxpayers and his other clients, community involvement to his area, and jobs to his growing number of employees. I am proud to salute him for his recent award and look forward to hearing about Lord & Company's continued success.

S. 1986, UMATILLA BASIN PROJECT COMPLETION ACT

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, for two decades, I have worked to resolve the fishery and irrigation conflicts in the Umatilla River Basin in the north-eastern region of my State of Oregon. In 1988, with the passage of the Umatilla Basin Project Act, we brought all interests together behind a project which advanced the goal of restoring anadromous fish runs in the Umatilla River. The act authorized pumping facilities to allow three irrigation districts, which previously withdrew their water from the Umatilla River, to receive an equal volume of water from the adjacent Columbia River to irrigate their crops and, in return, leave their water in the river for fish. The project, which has had no negative impact on the Columbia River, enabled the reintroduction of salmon stocks in the Umatilla River